

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### **2008 WMA Base Funding Work Plan**

**San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture  
Member of the San Luis Obispo County Weed Management Area**

*January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009*

#### **Primary Contact/Lead Contract Person/Projects Manager**

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#### **WMA Group affiliation:** San Luis Obispo County Weed Management Area

All projects described in this work plan will be in one contract with the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture.

#### **Project Objectives:**

I. Follow-up Monitoring/Treatment: The San Luis Obispo County WMA will insure that past grant projects developed to eradicate pioneer invasive weed species have, in fact, eradicated these populations. We will utilize this “Base Funding” to survey and monitor past project sites. Any plants detected will be treated, and assessments will be made on both the success of the past project and if any further monitoring or treatment is required.

The projects requiring follow-up include:

*Arundo Eradication from the Chorro Creek Watershed:* This was a ten-year project that systematically removed and treated arundo from the top of the watershed down to the terminal end of Chorro Creek. All known locations of arundo have been removed, treated, GPS recorded, and revisited to insure eradication. Base funding will be used to conduct detailed surveys to insure that no arundo was missed and no new clumps have established from accidental introduction. Any clumps found, which would likely be small since they have gone undetected thus far, would be eradicated using a cut-stump application with Aquamaster herbicide.

**RESULTS & REPORTING:** Any new clumps found will be GPS recorded and added to our GIS database for the project. A map will be submitted with our annual project report indicating the location of the newly detected infestation (in relation to the historical sites), the size of the clump, and the current status (e.g. treated, untreated, treated and revisited, etc.) of the clump.

*Jubatagrass Eradication of Pioneer Infestations:* This project was designed to eradicate 20 pioneer populations of jubatagrass in the central and northern coastal portions of SLO County. Of the 20 identified infestations, 14 populations have been completely eradicated with no new plants detected in over two years, 4 populations have been mostly eradicated but still require minimal follow-up due to new plants detected in the past year, and 2 populations remain untreated due to previous access restrictions which have recently been fixed. Base funding will be used to survey eradicated sites, monitor the nearly eradicated sites, and initiate control on the two remaining untreated populations.

**RESULTS & REPORTING:** In the project report to be submitted upon completion of the Base Funding contract, we will include a spreadsheet describing the status of all 20 jubatagrass populations. The spreadsheet will indicate when the site was last surveyed, how many plants were detected (if any), and what treatment method was used to control the plants found.

*Yellow Starthistle Control in Southeastern San Luis Obispo County/Carrizo Plain:* This project focused on controlling a roughly 100 acre yellow starthistle infestation in the Carrizo Plains grasslands. Although the original 100 acre infestation has been controlled and continues to be maintained by the land managers (BLM; CDF&G), the surrounding area is vast and there is the potential for other undetected, pioneer populations of yellow starthistle. We will utilize the base funding to survey the seasonal drainages that run throughout the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and represent the typical methods of spread in this area due to the extremely arid conditions.

**RESULTS & REPORTING:** Any new populations found will be GPS recorded and added to our GIS database for this project. A map will be submitted with our project report indicating the location of the newly detected infestation (in relation to the historical sites), the size of the population (square feet), the density or cover of the infestation, and any control efforts conducted or planned.

**II. Early Detection Invasive Plant Surveys and Rapid Response Project Development:** The San Luis Obispo County WMA will survey invasive, noxious weeds with either limited or poorly understood distributions within the County. Surveys will be conducted with the intention of identifying key pioneer infestations for rapid response control, with subsequent eradication efforts being conducted through in-kind contributions of the SLO County WMA members or outside grant sources.

Potential candidate species for early detection survey:

**Barb Goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*):** There are three small populations in the northwestern portion of SLO County that have either been eradicated or are under eradication; there is one larger infestation recently detected in the opposite end of the County. We will survey for Barb Goatgrass in an attempt to detect any unknown infestations. If no additional infestations are detected, we will then develop an eradication plan for the one infestation that is currently only being monitored and contained, not actively eradicated.

**Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*):** The distribution of medusahead is poorly understood, and suspected to be severely underreported in SLO County. We will utilize grower/rancher outreach efforts and appropriately timed surveys to develop a better understanding of the overall distribution, in order to then assess the optimum regional control strategy.

**Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*):** Besides one large infestation within the Salinas River riparian channel, the perennial pepperweed distribution in SLO County is not well known. It is suspected that there are numerous other populations outside the Salinas River area, as very

small satellite populations have recently been detected across SLO County. Before tackling the large Salinas River infestation, we will assess the overall regional distribution in order to determine if there are other more critical populations that warrant a rapid-response eradication effort.

**RESULTS & REPORTING:** Any new populations found during these early detection surveys will be GPS recorded and added to our GIS database depicting the countywide distribution for that particular weed species. A map will be submitted indicating the location of the newly detected infestation (in relation to the historical sites), the size of the population (square feet), the density or cover of the infestation, and any control efforts conducted or planned. If control efforts are conducted early enough in the year to allow for accurate monitoring, we will also include the efficacy levels of our control work, as demonstrated by the change in percent cover of the invasive weed.

All actions described above in the RESULTS & REPORTING sections will be included in a project report to be submitted upon completion of the grant contract at the end of the 2009 calendar year.